

Dunham Singletary

FAMILY CONNECTIONS

Issue 4

15 October, 2010

Volume 7 ©

President's Letter

As October begins with leaves turning red and gold but temps remain balmy, I feel more energetic. Time to get things done. There is pleasure in being outdoors, but it is also a time of work; gathering the bounty of the garden and preparing the yard for winter, finishing off summer projects, fall house cleaning and decluttering. To get through my tasks, I make lists—but they are adjusted daily. I like to include easy tasks, so I can cross a few things off very quickly. I never start with #1 and go down the list—I skip around and often get sidetracked in the middle of one task, and tend to add a few more as I go along. This undisciplined way of getting through my list makes it more fun, even if a bit messy, but the true pleasure is in seeing the accomplishment, the differences I make.

One task long on my list was getting a distant cousin to participate in our Dunham DNA project. Since my family is one of the less common Dunham lines (we aren't related to any of the other Dunham's who participated in our Dunham DNA project!), it seemed a prudent next step to figure out our genealogy. That task was accomplished this fall, and I look forward to reporting the results in January. And, if this task is also on your list, I encourage you to make it a priority this fall too. We all gain as we add to our knowledge of the Dunham lines.

Trudy Dunham, President

Editor's Corner

I spent six weeks of this summer in Montana visiting our daughter who lives there. This long visit allowed me to meet once again with DSFC treasurer Paul Clinton Dunham, and to pursue an interest that both of us had in another Montana Dunham. The article *Montana Lumber Mill Owner, DeWitt Clinton Dunham* is the result of that interest.

DSFC member Selma Blackmon of Norcross, Georgia has been working as a volunteer at the National Archives and Records Administration branch near her home. While working there Selma looked up some information about Dunhams living in the south following the Civil War. She found many references to Dunhams in the NARA files. A short article about these files demonstrates the wealth of information that can be found by reviewing this source.

Eric Stoltz has graciously allowed DSFC to reprint one of the articles about his Dunham ancestors.

This edition of the DSFC newsletter is a bit shorter than usual because I've been traveling a great deal this summer. I moved out of my home in Dayton, Ohio in June, and will not be fully resettled until mid January of 2011 when I will move with my son and daughter-in-law to Huntsville, Alabama.

Gratia Dunham Mahony, Editor

Members Corner

DSFC has learned of the recent death of Esther Irene (Dearborn) Dunham, wife of Robert W. Dunham of Madison, Wisconsin. Mrs. Dunham passed away on 30 June, 2010 at the age of 91 years. She was the daughter of Clarence and Alice (DeKalb) Dearborn.



Shown here are Esther Irene and Robert W. Dunham on their wedding day 6 May 1943. They were married at the Stevens Hotel in Chicago, Illinois where Robert Dunham was stationed at the time.

Robert W. Dunham has long been a contributor to the predecessor of this newsletter (*Dunham Dispatch*) and a great supporter of the *Dunham-Singletary Family Connections* association.

Mischievous Ancestors

By Eric Stoltz

“Youth, as they say, is wasted on the young. And while you’ve got to love having nonconformist ancestors, sometimes their adventures make it difficult to track them. Case in point: my grandmother **Maria Lucia “Lucille” Alvarado Wood Dunham Minasian**. She was quite a handful, especially once she met up with my grandfather **Sumner Earl Dunham**. They were known to spend all night dancing in the great ballrooms of Santa Monica. And I had already discovered something of their bohemian attitude in the 1930 Census when they gave their names as “Stanley” and “Lorraine.” Oh, it was them all right; the ages and kids’ names gave them away.

But I could never find their marriage record. Were they so counter-cultural that they never bothered to get married? That was my suspicion for a while, until I reviewed some genealogy work done by my cousin Jan-Christine Johnson many years back. She had a note that they were married in San Bernardino. So I



Sumner Earl Dunham and Maria Lucia "Lucille" Alvarado Wood Dunham Minasian

requested a marriage certificate from the San Bernardino County Clerk, just to see what would happen.

Amazingly, someone in the County Clerk's office made a guess and sent me the right certificate. Again with the aliases. The certificate was for "Sidney E. Dunham" and Lucile Alvarado. "Sidney" said he was born in Illinois and lived in San Francisco. Lucile also claimed to be a resident of San Francisco. Luckily my grandmother used her real name and the year is right; February 14, 1924, Valentine's Day.

I can just see Sumner Earl and Lucille getting married on the spur of the moment on Valentine's Day 1924, probably on an impromptu road-trip to San Bernardino, all googly-eyed and laughing, making things up as they went along, giggling. It's kind of endearing, really, and certainly tells me something about their relationship. But Grandma, Grandpa, seriously: what about your poor grandson trying to get the records straight? I hope they're having a good laugh together right now. They'd probably tell me to loosen up, or however the young kids said that in 1924."

Sumner Earl Dunham was born in Fort Bragg, Mendocino County CA 23 April 1899; died in Lynwood, Los Angeles County, CA 22 April 1964. Maria Lucia "Lucille" was born in 1903; died in 2001.

DSFC member Eric Stoltz has kindly given permission to use the above article which can also be seen on his web site <http://www.stoltzfamily.us/> .

Montana Lumber Mill Owner DeWitt Clinton Dunham

By Paul C. Dunham and Gratia Dunham Mahony

D. C. Dunham, founder and president of the Plum Creek Lumber Company of Columbia Falls, Montana had a great knowledge of lumber. He also had the skill of employing men to work in his mill on a year around basis. DeWitt Clinton Dunham, (called Dunny by his friends) came to Montana from Bemidji, Minnesota in 1945.

Dunham, a son of Dr. DeWitt C. and Ruth M. (Thurston) Dunham, was born in Anoka, Minnesota on October 8, 1896. His sister, Marion Dunham, a school teacher, was born in Anoka on April 13, 1894. Dunham had a half-brother and 2 half-sisters — Edith Jessie, William Alvin and Lucy Bertha. DeWitt C. Dunham married Gladys Margaret Oakins in Minneapolis, Hennepin County, Minnesota on July 24, 1924. She died in Minneapolis on November 24, 1947 at age 49. They had one daughter, Mary Ann (Dunham) Mushel, born November 26, 1930 in Minneapolis, and currently living in Montana. Dunham married second Bernice Josephine Fitzgerald Kossoff on February 25, 1957.

D. C. Dunham re-located to Washington state at an early age. In 1917 he was employed by Roslyn Lumber Company, in Ronald, Washington. At some point he went to Tacoma, Washington and worked for the Pacific National Lumber Company. He also worked for the Washington Veneer Company to develop its plywood sales. He had returned to Anoka, Minnesota by the time of the 1920 census — he was single and 24 years old and probably worked for Weyerhaeuser Company as a salesman.

Later DeWitt Clinton Dunham was a partner in a lumber mill in Bagley, Minnesota and from 1936 to 1940 owned the Cass Lake (MN) Lumber Company. He bought the Dickinson Lumber Company in Bemidji, Minnesota on January 1, 1930 and renamed it the D. C. Dunham Lumber Company. This company operated until it burned on September 10, 1942. The next month Dunham purchased the Bemidji Woods Products Company, a box factory, and it then became the D. C. Dunham Lumber Company.

Dunham owned the D. C. Dunham Lumber Company in Bemidji and in 1944 the Plum Creek Logging Company of Minnesota was incorporated into his operation. (Plum Creek is the name of a creek about 70 miles northeast of Bemidji where there was a lumber camp and sawmill).

During World War II there was a great need for lumber. Dunham came to Montana and in October of 1945 he began construction of the Plum Creek Lumber Company on the edge of Columbia Falls. The company shipped out hundreds of railroad cars full of lumber during the war years. In 1964 the company expanded with a new plywood plant which was completed in early 1965. A second saw mill was constructed at Pablo, south of Polson in Lake County, Montana.

In 1957 Dunny began the construction of a new home in Columbia Falls. He designed the home to take advantage of a splendid view of the Flathead River and the mountains of Glacier National Park. He worked with Brinkman and Lenon, Architects to draw up the plans for a two story ranch style home that was over 100 feet long. Dunny incorporated many unique cupboards with the specialty to hold items such as tablecloths draped over long bars, shallow file drawers, and large size cabinets to hold tall items. He used Montana hardwoods for trim and flooring throughout the house. The bathrooms had the needs of young people in mind with the construction of step stools built in front of the sink to help the children reach the faucets.



Left - View of Flathead River and the mountains of Glacier Park from the home built by D. C. Dunham in Columbia Falls, Montana.

Below - Rear of Dunham home overlooking the river and Glacier Park, Montana.



DeWitt Clinton⁸ Dunham died in Columbia Falls, Montana on December 2, 1966 at the age of 71 years. His Dunham ancestry begins with Deacon John¹ Dunham of Plymouth and second wife Abigail Ballou; Joseph² and Hester Wormall; Joseph³ and Bethia Chase; Nathaniel⁴ Dunham and Esther Partridge; Caleb⁵ and Sarah Trombling; Caleb⁶ and Lucy Ruth Coates; DeWitt Clinton⁷ and Ruth Margaret Thurston. DeWitt Clinton⁷ Dunham was a prominent physician in Anoka Minnesota. DeWitt Clinton⁸ Dunham, Jr., the subject of this article, was born 8 October 1896 in Anoka, Anoka County, Minnesota.

SAMPLES of Claims and Amnesty Papers and files of Confederate Citizens Filed by Dunhams living in the South Following the Civil War

During the 1870s some southerners claimed compensation from the US government for items used by the Union Army. One such claim was filed by **Jane Dunham** of Benton County, Arkansas on 14 April, 1871. In her petition to the Commissioners of Claims she stated that she was the widow of **Samuel A. Dunham** who died 30 January, 1871. She stated that in the fall of 1862 a portion of the United States army camped near her residence in Crop Hollow, Benton County, Arkansas and that they appropriated 4 mules, 2 horses, 30 sheep, 3 cattle, a hog, plus some wood. The value of the livestock and wood amounted to \$1025 dollars. Witnesses to this claim were Samuel Dunham and Stephen Dunham (presumably sons). The claim of Jane Dunham was apparently never settled as it is currently filed under "Barred and Disallowed" Claims. The full document can be found under Southern Claims Commission filed at NARA (National Archives and Records Administration) under #M1407.

An application filed under "Applications for pardon submitted to President Andrew Johnson", dated 26 August 1865 is from **David R. Dunham** of St. Augustine, Florida. In a letter to the President of the United States dated 21 June, 1865 David R. Dunham states that from the year 1855 he was the clerk of the State Circuit Court for St. John's County, Florida and the defacto clerk of the US District Court for the Northern District of Florida at St. Augustine. He further states, "In June 1861, I was without solicitation on my part, appointed by the Judge of the Rebel District Court, the clerk of said court for St. Augustine. I was poor, with a large family, my little property was all in St. Augustine, and I was constrained by actual necessity to accept it, took the usual oath of office, and to support the constitution of the Confederate States. . . . I held the place until March 1862 when the U. S. Squadron appeared off the entrance of St. Augustine and the City was evacuated by the Rebel troops in the night of the 9th or 10th. A boat with Captain C.P.R. Rodgers of the Wabash, came into the harbor. I was among the first to welcome the arrival on the wharf. . . I have never been a Rebel, but always a true Union man in my heart." The full document can be found under Confederate Amnesty Papers filed at NARA under #M1003.

NOTE: **David R. Dunham** comes from the line of Richard ¹ Singletary; Jonathan ² Dunham; Nathaniel ³; David ⁴; Joseph ⁵; David ⁶; and is David Ross ⁷ Dunham (1794-1869). For complete information about this family please see *Dunham-Singletary Family Connections* Newsletter Volume 5, Issue 2, 15 April 2008.

Numerous claims appear under the heading "Confederate papers Relating to Citizens or Business Firms, 1861-65." These records pertain to goods furnished or services rendered to the confederate government by private individuals or business firms. One such claim is from the Quarter Master of the Confederate States of America to **Miss C. S. Dunham** of Alabama, dated 31 July 1862, for her making 16 pair drawers and 16 shirts. The total amount due her was \$8.00. The full document can be found under Confederate Papers Relating to Citizens or Business Firms filed at NARA under #M346.

James S. Dunham of Van Buren County, Arkansas apparently was a printer. He printed blank documents for the Quarter Master to fill in when goods were ordered or services were rendered.

Bathsheba Dunham of Lavaca County, Texas; **D. M. Dunham** of Richmond, Virginia; and **Henry O. Dunham** of Mississippi were among the many other Dunhams whose Confederate Citizens File appear in the NARA files #M346.

BOOK REVIEW

Empire of the Summer Moon

by S. C. Gwynne

An account of the Texas frontier in the nineteenth century should be of special interest to all those whose ancestors were early settlers in the wild and windy plains of the southwestern United States. *Empire of the Summer Moon* is the story of the Comanche Indians who were the dominant tribe in this area and who were mainly responsible for keeping the Spaniards from Mexico and the European settlers from the eastern seaboard from achieving permanent settlements in the days of the Texas Republic.

The large area known as Comancheria included parts of New Mexico, Colorado, Kansas, and Oklahoma as well as the whole state of Texas. The story details the plight of all the Indian tribes who hunted buffalo over this vast territory of the Great Plains, as well as the plight of the early settlers who tried to penetrate this new frontier.

Central to the story is Quanah Parker, son of the captured white woman Cynthia Ann Parker and the Indian Chief by whom she bore three children. Cynthia Ann, a girl of nine years, was captured in 1836 in one of the early Indian raids of Parker's Fort, located about mid way between what are now the cities of Fort Worth and Houston.

The Comanche Indians who raided Parker's Fort were mounted on horseback. The skill of riding was unique to the Plains Indians who had captured wild mustangs from the horse herds brought to this country by the Spanish. The skill by which these Indians had learned to ride and shoot arrows from horseback was amazing. Their riding skill also allowed them to master the art of hunting buffalo which were their main source of sustenance.

The narrative describes the next 41 years of the tumultuous times of treaties with the Indians, skirmishes by the Rangers, campaigns against the Indians by the United States Army, and of course the demise of the Indian way of life. The development and use of the Colt Revolver and the Sharps "Big Fifties" rifles against Indians armed with spears and arrows is well researched and documented. The campaigns of George Custer and Ranald Slidell Mackenzie are vividly described.

Poignantly told is the final defeat of Quanah Parker in June 1875 and his life after the arrival of the remainder of his small band of Indians at Fort Sill. Quanah left the freedom of the Plains behind and began to remake himself in the mold of the white men. He became curious about his white family and attempted to find his mother's grave. He built a house for himself and his extended family in 1890 that any white rancher could have wished to own. He worked tirelessly to see that the remaining Indians received the aid that Washington had promised them. Quanah Parker, the last chief of the Comanches, died at his home on 23 February 1911.

Empire of the Summer Moon by S. C. Gwynne;

Published by Scribner, NY 2010

ISBN 978-1-4165-0195-4